Dear Howard, 10/20/73

There has been a delay in my writing a letter of recommendation to the law school. I did draft it several days ago. Lil has retyped it and the first time I'm near a mail box or when I'm at the P.O. Monday I'll mail it. Lesar was coming here Thursday, so I drafted it before he got here, asked him to read it (I hadn't), he said to shorten it, and I did. This a.m. is the first time Lil had. We went out last night, to dinner at the Harpers, if you remember them. He is the editor of the local p.m. paper. (His birthday, champagne and steaks, high life!)

When you said you didn't want to see a copy, I said I'd have one in case you changed your mind. Since then I've seen Bernabei's letter. I find his reasoning sound. However, unlike him, I won't forced my opinion on you. Instead I'll enclose a sealed copy. If you really don't want to see it, you can throw it away.

By an accident - a lawyer overhearing two court clerks talking - Lesar learned that the court of appeals has decided in the en banc rehearing but a typist messed it up so it must be retyped. This means we'll have a decision public soon. Jim thinks they'll print it, which may take a day or two longer. I'm not in a hurry. The earlier decision is being drawn upon in other cases. This one will be whichever way it goes. I expect to win.

Today's Post that comes here was too early for Nixon's statement on the tapes and Cox. Jim worked until 6 a.m. By the time he went out for a Times in his neighborhood, they were all gone. I don't believe that if the Post didn't have time the early editions of the NY Times can carry it. This means what is in tiwn here and what the Whites get probably can't have it. And the Whites don't get the Sunday Times. If you get tomorrow's, we'd both appreciate the late developments, including Cox's press conference especially. I'm glad at the apparent overnihgt stiffening in his position (which is not as stout as it appears and was accepted as being). I'm also glad Ervin says he didn't say that he'd take a summary. Between the two, I was acutely disappointed.

If you got a today's Times (Sat) and if it had the tapes story, I'd much appreciate anything more than bare bones, esp. text from W.H.

I finally finished the insertions on the insertions of the second of the long chapters that I was working on and I've outlined the next in my mind and the materials. I still have some disagreeable things to attend when I can screw myself up to it. I did a couple before daylight and have them in the mail.

The leaves are beginning to turn. It is beautiful now. Also a bit cool nights. Close to freezing all last week, rather this past week. Over 60 this pm. I worked up a good sweat trimming the grass on the slopes and I'm about to take a soak. Best,